

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 FRB-03

OMB-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 IO-10 CU-02 AID-05 /070 W

----- 123644

R 301521Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 334

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN JOSE 2196

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, CS

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON TEXTILE UNIONS

REF: STATE 076035

1. TEXTILE AND TEXTILE-RELATED LABOR ACTIVITIES ARE EXCLUSIVELY IN THE HANDS OF ONE LABOR UNION IN COSTA RICA, THE SYNDICATE NACIONAL DEL INDUSTRIA DE VESTIDOS, TEXTILES Y SIMILARES. IN THE PAST FEW YEARS AT LEAST THREE OTHER TEXTILE UNIONS EXISTED BUT TWO DIED OF THEIR OWN ACCORD AND THE THIRD WAS ABSORBED BY THE ABOVE UNION. THE SYNDICATO NACIONAL, WHILE ATTEMPTING TO ORGANIZE IN ALL FACTORIES, HAS HAD ITS GREATEST SUCCESS IN THE FACTORIES THAT CONSTITUTE THE "DRAWBACK" INDUSTRIES AND ARE OF MAINLY AMERICAN CAPITAL. THE SYNDICATO CLAIMS TO HAVE 1200 MEMBERS, BUT THE FIGURE COULD BE AS LOW AS 800, OUT OF AN ESTIMATED TOTAL OF 33,000 WORKERS ASSOCIATED WITH THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY IN COSTA RICA.

2. THE SYNDICATO NACIONAL DEL INDUSTRIA DE VESTIDOS, TEXTILES, Y SIMILARES IS AFFILIATED WITH THE COMMUNIST CONFEDERATION CGT. ITS SECRETARY- GENERAL IS A YOUNG MAN, MARIANO CALVO FALLAS, WHO SPENT THREE YEARS IN HUNGARY AND HAS TRAVELLED TO CUBA. HE EXPRESSES A TRADITIONAL MARXIST VIEW ON THE PHILOSOPHY OF

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THE WORKER CLASS. HOWEVER THE ACTIVITIES OF HIS UNION,

FROM PRESS AND PRIVATE REPORTS, ARE THOSE OF A TRADITIONAL
DEMOCRATIC UNION -- CONCERN OVER WAGES, HOLIDAYS, HEALTH
BENEFITS, AND PLANT SAFETY.

3. THE UNION THAT WAS ABSORBED BY THE SYNDICATO NACIONAL
HAD FORMERLY BEEN AFFILIATED WITH THE DEMOCRATIC
CONFEDERATION. CCTD.

TODMAN

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXTILES, LABOR UNIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750190-0292
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Comment: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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